

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 2 to read as follows¹:

1. (Twice amended) A nucleotide or polynucleotide sequence deleted from the genome of *M. bovis* BCG/*M. bovis* and present in the genome of *M. tuberculosis* or a nucleotide or polynucleotide sequence of the following ORFs and genes: Rv2346c, Rv2347c, Rv2348c, *plcC*, *plcB*, *plcA*, Rv2352c, Rv2353c, Rv3425, Rv3426, Rv3427c, Rv3428c, Rv1964, Rv1965, *mce3*, Rv1967, Rv1968, Rv1969, *lprM*, Rv1971, Rv1972, Rv1973, Rv1974, Rv1975, Rv1976c, Rv1977, *ephA*, Rv3618, Rv3619c, Rv3620c, Rv3621c, Rv3622c, *IPqG*, *cobL*, Rv2073c, Rv2074, Rv2075, *echA1*, or Rv0223c.

2. (Twice amended) The nucleotide or polynucleotide sequences as claimed in claim 1 grouped together in nucleotide regions RD5 to RD10 according to the following distribution:

(A) RD5: Rv2346c, Rv2347c, Rv2348c, *plcC*, *plcB*, *plcA*, Rv2352c, Rv2353c;

(B) RD6: Rv3425, Rv3426, Rv3427c, Rv3428c;

(C) RD7: Rv1964, Rv1965, *mce3*, Rv1967, Rv1968, Rv1969, *lprM*, Rv1971, Rv1972, Rv1973, Rv1974, Rv1975, Rv1976c, Rv1977;

(D) RD8: *ephA*, Rv3618, Rv3619c, Rv3620c, Rv3621c, Rv3622c, *lpqG*;

(E) RD9: *cobL*, Rv2073c, Rv2074, Rv2075c; and

(F) RD10: *echA1*, Rv0223c.

1. The text added and deleted by this amendment is indicated in the Appendix.